

MARY WILCOX BECKWITH

DRAWER 2

LINCOLN GRANDCHILDREN

71 2009 DRS 04/14

The Lincoln Grandchildren

Mary Lincoln Beckwith

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Great Granddaughter of Lincoln Takes to Air

Miss Beckwith, Vermont
Farmer, Qualifying
for License

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—The spirit of Abraham Lincoln lives, and in his great granddaughter, Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith, many of his outstanding characteristics continue. She is the granddaughter of the late Robert Todd Lincoln of Chicago and Manchester, Vt., and scholar, farmer and scientist, she now is taking up aviation, owns her own plane and is qualifying for her pilot's license.

FARMER IN VERMONT

Miss Beckwith is occupying the residence of her grandfather in Washington, and is known to be a level-headed woman of great ability and plenty of common sense. Vermont knows her as an able farmer.

The place at Manchester, a dozen years ago, did its part in helping out the nation's food supply in the last year of the war. Miss Beckwith did her bit by taking a short but intensive agricultural course at Cornell, and then she organized a unit of young women farmers. On her return to Manchester she found only eight men left to cut the hay on the 800-acre farm. She pitched in and did the work of a half a dozen ordinary men herself. Incidentally, the rest of the help lifted their feet, and there was no motion lost. The hay was all saved.

At present Miss Beckwith is training every day at the Washington airport, just across the Potomac river from the classical memorial to her illustrious ancestor. Already she has almost the required number of hours to her flying credit and is known as a first-rate aviator. She can design and build a plane, understands it from propeller to rudder, can make her own repairs, and those who have been honored with her ac-



(Photo (C) HARRIS & EWING)

MISS MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH

quaintance unite in declaring her to be one upstanding United States woman in whom the spirit of pioneering is dominant.



Mary Lincoln Beckwith . . . great-granddaughter of Abraham Lincoln . . . is a competent flyer, and might well make a career in aviation . . . She is straightforward, capable, genuine.

January 16, 1959

Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith
"Hildane"
Manchester, Vermont

Dear Miss Beckwith:

I have recently discovered two photographs of your mother, Jessie, taken when she was $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 years old. These photographs were made in the Chicago studio of H. Rocher about 1878. This studio was located in Hales' Building, 77, 78 & 79 State Street, Chicago, Illinois. It is believed that the penciled notations on the back of the photographs are in the handwriting of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

If you would be interested in having copies of these photographs, I will be glad to send them to you. I also have photographs of your mother's sister and brother, Mary (age 9) and "Jack" (age 5).

I am trying to get photographs of all of Lincoln's descendants. Would I be presumptuous to ask you to send me a photograph of yourself taken at any age. I assure you that I will be most grateful if you can send me a photograph.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

HILDENE
MANCHESTER
VERMONT

Dear Cheryl and Janine

Thank you for the
stamped envelope.

I'm sorry that I could
not get this off in time to
make the "dead line" you
gave me.

I do not have any "snaps"
or photographs of myself (one
doesn't, does one?) as you
have been to so many Lincoln
homes, I thought you might
be interested to see a photograph
of the one my grandfather
Robert Todd Lincoln built and
my home now

With all good wishes

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Mary Lincoln Beckwith

February 7th 1959

The Banner
Volume 63 No. 4
July-August, 1959

THE PORTSMOUTH NAVY YARD'S nuclear-powered, fleet ballistic submarine SSB(N)-602 will bear a famous name. The Secretary of the Navy has assigned the name ABRAHAM LINCOLN to the submarine whose keel was laid November 1st. A sister ship, the SSB(N)-601 being constructed at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company will be named ROBERT E. LEE.

The UPI reported that Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 60, one of the Civil War President's three surviving great-grandchildren, said at Manchester, Vt., that Lincoln would have thought it a great honor to have the nuclear submarine named after him. Miss Beckwith, a grandchild of Robert Todd Lincoln who was the single Lincoln child to reach maturity, said the naming of the other sub after Confederate General Lee would have also pleased Lincoln. "I think he would have liked that. You know, they were good friends, though they didn't agree politically," she said.

Lincoln's Anniversary Work Day For Descendant

MANCHESTER, Vt. (AP) — The mistress of "Hildene" planned "nothing special" today as millions of other Americans remembered the 153rd anniversary of the birth of her great-grandfather.

Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 63, says she is proud to be a member of the distinguished Lincoln family but thinks it's illogical to "plan something for a relative who was dead before you were born."

Operates Farm.

Since 1938 she has operated the 1,000-acre dairy farm built by her grandfather, Robert Todd Lincoln, only son of the 16th president to reach maturity.

"We're milking 20 head this year," Miss Beckwith said. "Prof- it? Well, I'm in danger of running out of the red but don't tell the tax collectors about it."

Her neighbors say Miss Beckwith doesn't much care about her distinguished ancestry.

"It always provokes me," she said, "when people stare and say:

'There's Lincoln's great-grand-daughter.' It's just my luck he was related to me."

Her farm was built at the turn of the century, 30-odd years after Robert Lincoln first visited this southwestern Vermont town with his mother, Mary Todd Lincoln, while he was a Harvard undergraduate.

Other Relatives.

Her cousin, Lincoln Isham, 68, lives in nearby Dorset where he works on his collection of Lincolniana, much of which has been donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Her brother, Lincoln Beckwith, operates a farm in Virginia. None of the three Lincoln descendants has children.

Their great-grandfather was
(Continued on Page 2 Col. 7)

Work Day—

(Continued from Page One)

said to have visited Springfield, Vt. during his first term.

Stephen Douglas, the famed "Little Giant" with whom Lincoln engaged in the memorable series of debates, was a native of Brandon, Vt., and a graduate of Brandon Academy.

Abe carried Vermont handily against native son Douglas, winning the state by 25,000 votes in the 1860 election.

Today was a legal holiday for

state employees and most banks in Vermont remained closed. But for Mary Lincoln Beckwith, indifferent, but proud of her ancestor, it was just another work day.

Lincoln's Kin Proud, But Won't Mark Day

MANCHESTER, Vt., Feb. 19 (AP)—The mistress of "Hilldene" planned "nothing special" today as millions of other Americans remembered the 153rd anniversary of the birth of her great-grandfather.

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Doesn't Care Much

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Vermont Ties Strong

Their great-grandfather was said to have visited Springfield, Vt., during his first term. But while he never lived in this State his ties here were strong.

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SAYS ABE WOULD REFLECT

Lincoln's Descendant Opposed To Aggressive Desegregation

MANCHESTER, VT. (UPI): Abraham Lincoln's great-granddaughter said today she is opposed to "the aggression of the federal government in forcing integration on the South."

Referring to her great-grandfather's 154th birthday anniversary, Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 64, said:

"This is a good time to reflect, and I think Abe Lincoln would do a lot of reflecting himself if he were here."

Miss Beckwith, whose family lived in Kentucky and South Carolina, has lived more than a half century at "Hildene," a 1000-acre dairy farm built by her grandfather, Robert Todd Lincoln.

"We're Southerners," she told United Press International, "but I don't think of the South as a separate culture. It's part of the union. The aggression of the federal government in forcing integration concerns me, and I disagree with the stand taken by Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy on this matter."

Miss Beckwith thinks the segregation problem stems from the fact "that people and animals just don't like strangers. And when strangers are suddenly thrown together, people and animals alike bristle."

"It's a curious sort of provincialism," she said, "yet it is absolutely universal. The question is not confined to the southern Negroes. We have it here in Vermont with the migrant workers in the summer. They have had it in Massachusetts, as I recall, especially with the Portuguese. And it's the same question in Africa and other parts of the world."

Miss Beckwith said that part of the difficulty is "that we've come together so suddenly with the airplane and other means. People just can't grasp the situation."

Regarding desegregation, Miss Beckwith observed:

"I think we are moving along the right lines, but the federal government is a little too aggressive."

"I realize that the process of integration must seem to be taking a very long time to some people. But I think it may take even more time than it has. It's like nature which takes an awfully long time in its evolution."

Miss Beckwith said you cannot force something like this down people's throats.

"I am not a pacifist," she said, "but I am concerned by all this aggres-

siveness and I would probably punch someone in the nose who is aggressive. I think more is accomplished by reasoning, brotherly love and simple human kindness, rather than the aggression which I think is shown by both sides."

Chicago Daily News
Chicago, Illinois
February 14, 1963

Miss Mary Lincoln Beckworth
of Manchester, Vt., great-grand-
daughter of Abraham Lincoln,
on causes of segregation:

**"People and animals just
don't like strangers. And
when strangers are sudden-
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and animals alike bristle."**

Raps Federal Policy— Descendant of Lincoln Against Forced Mixing

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See Editorial, "What Lincoln Said About Integration," on Page 4A.

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See LINCOLN, Page 2-A

★ LINCOLN

From Page One

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Bobby Kennedy Goes Too Fast, Says Lincoln Kin

MANCHESTER (AP) — "Bobby Kennedy is just too impetuous on this whole integration question," Abraham Lincoln's great-granddaughter said here Tuesday.

Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 65, reflecting on racial problems as the nation observed the Great Emancipator's birthday, declared she believed in the principle of integration.

"But you can't force it down people's throats," she added.

Miss Beckwith, who lives on a 1,000-acre dairy farm here, said Negro James Meredith probably would have had much less trouble entering the University of Mississippi if the federal government "hadn't used officers to shove him in there."

She said Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy should try gentle persuasion when integration crisis develops in the South.

Would this have been Lincoln's approach today?

"I can't say. I'm as far away from him as anyone else."

But Miss Beckwith added that Robert Kennedy should follow the example of his brother, the President, "who seems to be going much slower" in civil rights.

"It's not the color of skin that causes all the trouble," she said. "It's whether you like the individual. And you can't be forced to like an individual."

She said education will be the key to solving racial difficulties.

Granddaughter Of Lincoln Dies

MANCHESTER, Vt. (UPI) —Miss Mary Todd Lincoln Beckwith, 77, died Thursday at Rutland Hospital.

She was the granddaughter of Robert Todd Lincoln, the son of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th President, and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

Miss Beckwith requested in her will that her ashes be spread over her estate. That request will be fulfilled.

Since 1938, she had operated her grandfather's 1,000-acre summer estate known as Hildene. Miss Beckwith was shy of publicity, but was loved by her friends and neighbors.

In its prime, her estate had horse stables and she had developed a reputation for her horsemanship. At one time, she ran a dairy farm which she farmed with the help of hired hands.

At her request there will be no funeral or memorial service.

—•—

The Philadelphia Inquirer,

Lincoln Estate Left To Christian Scientists

SUN
10/24/75

United Press International

MANCHESTER, Vt. — The great granddaughter of Abraham Lincoln has left her 1,000-acre estate and \$450,000 to the Christian Science Church.

The will of May Lincoln Beckwith was probated Friday in Bennington County Probate Court, leaving her Manchester estate Hildene to the Boston-based church.

Miss Beckwith, granddaughter of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only son of the 16th U. S. president to live to maturity, died last month at the age of 77.

One stipulation of the will was that the estate must be kept in memorial,

"if possible," to her mother and grandparents.

Robert Todd Lincoln, former president of the Pullman Co., built Hildene in 1905. It has never been opened to the public.

The will states that if the church is unable to maintain the estate, proceeds from its sale must go toward promoting the religion "as taught by Mary Baker Eddy," founder of the Christian Science Church.

The will also left \$2,500 each to two distant cousins and her personal effects to her brother, Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, the only direct living descendant of Abraham Lincoln.

Great-Grandchild Of Lincoln Dies at 77

Manchester, Vt. — (UPI) — Miss Mary Todd Lincoln Beckwith, 77, is dead.

She was the granddaughter of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only surviving child of Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

Miss Beckwith, who died Thursday, operated her grandfather's 1,000-acre summer estate here known as Hildene, since 1938. In its prime, the estate had horse stables and she had developed a reputation for her horsemanship. At one time, she ran a dairy farm which she farmed with the help of hired hands.

Philadelphia Evening Bulletin,
July 10th. 1975.

...the Laotians have been withdrawn from Laos. But the Laotians are

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

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AUG 26 1975

Lincoln descendant wills estate to church

By the Associated Press

Manchester, Vermont

The more than 400-acre estate of Abraham Lincoln's great-granddaughter has been left to The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, Massachusetts, with the provision that the estate be maintained as a memorial.

The will states that the "big house shall be used as a rest home and/or as an historical museum" and that it "shall be kept and maintained without any change in architecture, interior or exterior, and the gardens adjacent thereto, planned by my mother, shall be maintained as now laid out, it being my direction that said Hildene shall be a memorial to my mother and grandparents."

Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith's grandfather, Robert Todd Lincoln, was the only son of Abraham Lincoln to live to maturity.

The will also states that the church may sell the lands, buildings, and personal property, at public or private sale, if "it is impractical to keep and maintain said Hildene estate as a memorial."

Proceeds from such a sale must be used to promote and extend the Christian Science religion, according to the will.

Miss Beckwith is survived by her brother, Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, the last living descendant of the Civil War President.

Page 4

Lincoln family
Beckwith family

The New York Times

229 WEST 43 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

September 10, 1975

Mr. Edward H. Sprangers
925 Ferndell Road
Pine Hills
Orlando, Florida 32808

Dear Mr. Sprangers:

Thank you for your interest in The New York Times.

In response to your query, please be advised that I've consulted our Morgue clipping files and I'm afraid we did not have a reference card under the name Mary Todd Lincoln Beckworth, which means we have no record of ever publishing any data on this descendant of Abraham Lincoln.

However, I pursued this matter and checked The New York Times on Microfilm, which is a record of each day's final edition of our newspaper, for July 11 through 13. I'm awfully sorry to say this also proved to be of no avail, as none of the obituary pages for the given dates included an obituary for Miss ~~Lincoln~~ **BECKWORTH**.

I regret I could not be of service to you at this time.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Brown

Barbara L. Brown (Mrs.)
Public Relations

Received
SEP 12 1975

Drawer: Lincoln Family
Div. Lincoln Grandchildren
Folder: Beckwith Family
Grand daughters

Church Given Lincoln Estate

The 1,000-acre estate of Abraham Lincoln's great-granddaughter has been left to the Christian Science Church with the provision that it be maintained as a memorial.

The estate, Hildrene, is in Manchester, Vt.

The will of Mary Lincoln Beckwith, who died in July at 77, also gives the church \$425,000.

It says the "big house shall be kept and maintained without any change in architecture, interior or exterior, and the gardens adjacent thereto, planned by my mother, shall be maintained as now laid out, it being my direction that said Hildrene shall be a memorial to my mother and grandparents."

Her grandfather, Robert Todd Lincoln, was the only son of the Civil War president to live to maturity. Miss Beckwith was survived by her brother, Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, who is believed to be the last living descendant of President Lincoln.

File : Beckwith Family

See also : Isham Family

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

I, MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH, of Manchester in the County of Bennington and State of Vermont, hereby make this my last Will and Testament, revoking all former Wills and Codicils by me at any time made:

FIRST: I direct my just debts, funeral expenses and expenses of administration be paid by my executors in the manner required by law.

SECOND: I give and bequeath all of my jewelry, clothing, personal effects, silver and silverware, including tea sets, trays, goblets, pitchers and flat silver (but excluding lamps), the "Drum" desk, the grandfather clock, all Dresden and Copeland china, including Dresden candlesticks and vases, and the "Arab Runners", to my brother, ROBERT TODD LINCOLN BECKWITH, absolutely, if he shall survive me. If my said brother shall not survive me, then and in that event I direct that all of the above mentioned items shall become a part of my residuary estate.

THIRD: I give and bequeath to DORIS BECKWITH CRANS, absolutely, the bridal lace which she wore at her wedding.

FOURTH: I give and bequeath to ALICE COLONNA and to MARY E. COLONNA, daughters of Frances Isham Colonna, each the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), absolutely, if they shall survive me. If either the said ALICE COLONNA or MARY E. COLONNA shall predecease me leaving lawful issue living at the date of my death, such issue shall take, per stirpes, the share such parent would have taken had such parent survived me. If either the said ALICE COLONNA or MARY E. COLONNA shall predecease me leaving no lawful issue surviving them, then and in that event I give and bequeath said sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to the survivor thereof, or to the lawful issue living at the date of my death of the said ALICE COLONNA or MARY E. COLONNA, as the case may be. If both the said ALICE COLONNA and MARY E. COLONNA shall predecease me leaving no lawful issue surviving me, then and in that event I direct that the two legacies of \$2,500.00 herein provided shall lapse and become a part of my residuary estate.

Mary Lincoln Beckwith

FIFTH: (a) I give, devise and bequeath unto my Trustees hereinafter named and appointed the sum of Four Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$425,000.00), in trust nevertheless, upon the following uses and purposes:

To invest the same and to collect and receive the rents, income, dividends and profits thereof (hereinafter referred to as income) and, after deducting the commissions of the Trustees and any proper expenses of said trust, to pay from the net income thereof to the following named persons the amounts set forth below in equal monthly installments for and during the natural life of each, viz:

<u>Robert J. Randolph</u>	Washington, D. C.	\$416.66 per month
<u>Bessie C. Riely</u>	Washington, D. C.	\$ 20.00 per month
<u>Florence Anthony</u>	Washington, D. C.	\$ 80.00 per month
<u>Henry Todd</u>	c/o Mary D. Bush, Ellensville, S. C.	\$ 25.00 per month
<u>Phoebe Bushee</u>	Manchester Depot, Vermont	\$100.00 per month

I further direct that my Trustees shall purchase, from the income of said Trust, food in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per month, and shall ship the same monthly at the expense of said Trust, to GRACE PORTEOUS, London, England, so long as she shall live.

(b) Any surplus net income from said fund not required for the purpose of paying the monthly installments specified above shall be paid over to THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOTHER CHURCH, THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, in Boston, Massachusetts, to be used by them for the purposes specified in Paragraph SEVENTH hereof.

(c) Upon the death of the last survivor of the six persons named in (a) above the Trust hereby established shall cease and determine, and the principal of said Trust fund, together with any unexpended income, shall be paid over to said THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, to be used by them for the purposes specified in Paragraph SEVENTH hereof.

SIXTH: I give, devise and bequeath unto said THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOTHER CHURCH all of my real estate in Manchester, Vermont, situated between the main highway (U. S. #7) and The Battenkill River known as Hildene, together with all of the improvements, furnishings, bric-a-brac, books, paintings, pictures, sculptures and contents not

Mary Lincoln Beebe

hereinbefore bequeathed, and all farm and garden implements and livestock; the "Big House", so-called, and adjacent grounds to be kept and maintained by said BOARD OF DIRECTORS in the state in which my grandparents, Mary Harlan Lincoln and Robert Todd Lincoln, planned and lived in them. Said "Big House" shall be kept and maintained without any change in architecture, interior or exterior, and the gardens adjacent thereto, planned by my mother, shall be maintained as now laid out, it being my direction that said Hildene estate shall be a memorial to my mother and grandparents. I leave to the discretion of said BOARD OF DIRECTORS the use to which the buildings on said lands, including the "Big House", shall be put, it being my desire, but I do not direct, that said Hildene estate shall be used as and maintained as a rest home and/or as an historical museum which shall be open to the public at such times, with or without charge, as such BOARD OF DIRECTORS may deem advisable.

SEVENTH: All of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real, personal and mixed, wherever situate, I give, devise and bequeath to said THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOTHER CHURCH, THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, in Boston, Massachusetts, the income therefrom, and so much of the principal thereof as said BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall deem necessary, to be used for the purpose of maintaining and operating said Hildene estate. In the event that at any time said BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall determine that it is impractical to keep and maintain said Hildene estate as a memorial, I authorize and empower them to sell any and all of said real estate and the furnishings and personal property therein and thereon, at public or private sale, and to use the proceeds thereof for the purpose of promoting and extending the religion of Christian Science as taught by Mary Baker Eddy; provided, however, that in the event said BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall decide to sell any or all of the paintings, lamps or sculpture in said Hildene I give and bequeath to my brother, ROBERT TODD LINCOLN BECKWITH, the portrait of Robert Todd Lincoln, the copy of the Healy portrait of President Abraham Lincoln, the silver lamps, the Sevre bust of Abraham Lincoln, and the bronze hand of Abraham Lincoln cast from life, if my said brother shall be living at the time said DIRECTORS decide to sell said paintings, lamps or sculpture.

Mary Lincoln Beckwith

EIGHTH: I direct that all transfer, inheritance, succession, legacy or estate taxes, both state and federal, imposed on any and all of the property devised or bequeathed under this will shall be paid from the principal of my residuary estate by my executor before distribution, in order that the legatees and devisees under this will, other than the residuary legatees and devisees, may receive all such property and bequests free from all charges.

NINTH: I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint the CITY BANK FARMERS TRUST COMPANY of New York, N. Y. and JAMES B. CAMPBELL of Manchester, Vt., and the survivor of them, or the successor of said Trust Company, to be executors of this my last Will and Testament and Trustees of the Trust herein established, and I direct that they shall be paid a commission of 3 % of my gross estate for their services as executors, and a commission of 3 % of the annual gross income from said trust for their services as Trustees.

TENTH: I hereby direct that my said executors, commencing the month following the date of my death and continuing during the settlement of my estate and until Trustees shall be appointed and shall qualify, shall pay out of my personal estate to the persons named therein, or to such of them as shall survive me, the monthly sums specified in Paragraph FIFTH above. I am presently making payments to such named persons, and it is my intent that such payments shall continue without interruption following my death.

ELEVENTH: I direct that all dividends payable in cash, whether ordinary or extraordinary, as well as dividends paid in stock other than that of the declaring corporation or association, be distributed as income and all dividends payable in the stock of the corporation or association declaring or authorizing the same in respect of any stock held by me or in which my estate shall be invested at any time shall not be distributed as income but retained as part of the principal of my estate. I further relieve my executors and Trustees from the obligation to establish a sinking fund in order to restore to the principal of the trust estate the premium on any investment.

Mary Lincoln Beckwith

TWELFTH: Said executors and Trustees shall be authorized and empowered to retain in said Trust as an investment without regard to the proportion which such property, or property of a similar character, so held, may bear to the entire amount of said Trust estate, whether or not such property is of the class in which Trustees are authorized by law or any rule of court to invest trust funds; to sell any such property held in said Trust estate, whether real or personal, at either public or private sale, for cash or credit; to exchange any such property; to grant options for the purchase thereof; and to execute and deliver instruments in writing conveying title thereto to the purchaser thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand and publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament at Manchester, Vermont, this 5th day of September, A. D. 1950.

Mary Lincoln Beckwith (L.S.)

Signed, published and declared by the said MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH as her Last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereof, at the request and in the presence of said testatrix, and in the presence of each other.

Edith Hooley residing at Manchester, Vermont
Frederick M. Reed residing at Manchester, Vermont
Tom B. Campbell residing at Manchester, Vermont

A P P R A I S A L

E S T A T E O F

MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH, DECEASED.

U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

-----X
In the matter of the Appraisal :
under the Federal Estate Tax :
Law of the Estate :
:
- of - :
:
MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH, :
:
Deceased. :
-----X

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK) SS:

MAURICE F. O'CONNELL, being duly sworn, deposes
and says;

That he is the President of

MASTERSON-O'CONNELL CO., INC.,

with offices at 350 Lexington Avenue, Borough of Manhattan,
City of New York.

That he is now and has for more than seventeen
years been engaged in the Estate Appraisal Field; that for
nine years he was employed as an Appraiser by the Internal
Revenue Service in New York; that he is a Licensed Real Estate
Broker and a member of the Bar of the State of New York. That
at the request of the FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK, Executor for the
above-named decedent's estate, your deponent has caused a
representative of the firm:

Mr. Charlton M. Theus, Jr.,
to appraise the Furniture,
Bric-a-brac, Books, Paintings,
Pictures, Sculptures, Etc.,

MASTERSON-O'CONNELL CO., INC.

described to him as belonging to the above-named decedent's estate, and that the value of same as stated in this affidavit is the true and fair market retail/auction value as of the 10th day of July, 1975, which deponent is informed and verily believes to be the date of the decedent's death.

The values shown in this Appraisal are the full and fair market retail/auction values of the property as of the date of the decedent's death to the best of his knowledge and belief, and are such as would have been paid for the property by a willing buyer to a willing seller in an open market; and are not forced sale values as would have been paid by a second-hand dealer.

Deponent further states that the value of said Property, so appraised, is in the amount of TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY and 00/100 (\$26,820.00) DOLLARS.

Maurice F. O'Connell

Sworn to before me this
22nd day of October, 1975.

Carmela Digristina

CARMELA DIGRISTINA
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 31-6032150
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires March 30, 1976

FIRST FLOOR
DINING ROOM

CLASSICAL MAHOGANY DINING
TABLE

The oval extension top on
columnar supports, platform
base with scroll feet.

\$ 85.00

SET OF FOURTEEN QUEEN ANNE STYLE
MAHOGANY CHAIRS

Two arm and twelve side chairs;
the backs with shaped upright,
baluster splat; on cabriole legs
ending in raised pad feet; the
slip seats in brown leather.

600.00

LATE FEDERAL STYLE MAHOGANY
SIDEBOARD

The bow front center section
with a cutlery drawer flanked
by small drawers and a pair of
cupboard doors flanked by
decanter drawers; the ends with
a molded superstructure drawer
above a small frieze drawer and
a cupboard; on turned legs.

350.00

PAIR OF MAHOGANY SIDE TABLES

Bow front, with two drawers in
the frieze, on columnar supports
resting on an undershelf.

120.00

MAHOGANY FINISH TEACART

20.00

MASTERSON-O'CONNELL CO., INC.

FIRST FLOOR
DINING ROOM CONTD.

MAHOGANY HIGH CHAIR With rush seat; on turned, stretchered legs. Damaged.	\$ 10.00
CLASSICAL MAHOGANY DROP LEAF TABLE Oblong, the drop leaves with notched rounded corners; the frieze with a drawer at one end; on spirally turned legs; castered.	70.00
MAHOGANY MUFFIN STAND With three graduated round shelves.	15.00
MAHOGANY THREE FOLD FLOOR SCREEN With fabric panels.	20.00
MAHOGANY DROP LEAF TABLE Oval, on heavily turned legs.	40.00
BRASS HEARTH GARNITURE Comprising: A pair of andirons Folding spark screen Fender Two fire tools	50.00

FIRST FLOOR
DINING ROOM CONTD.

SILVER PLATED OIL LAMP

Repousse with garlands and
masks, now fitted for electricity
with shade.

Together with:

A pair of small cut glass and
silver plated oil lamps,
now electrified.

\$ 85.00

PAIR OF BRASS CANDLESTICKS

With etched clear glass
hurricane shades.

50.00

VIEUX PARIS WHITE & GOLD

PORCELAIN GARNITURE

Comprising:

A pair of reticulated hexagonal
baskets on paw feet.

A matching compote.

Compote repaired.

120.00

PORTRAIT OF ROBERT TODD

LINCOLN

Oil on canvas.

Mounted in overmantel.

No Commercial
Value

ORIENTAL CARPET

12' x 18'.

Patterned with cypress and
other trees and pairs of birds.

Very poor condition.

75.00

TOTAL

\$ 1,710.00

FIRST FLOOR
WORKROOM

INLAID MAHOGANY LIBRARY

TABLE

Oblong, with three drawers and
a cupboard on either side; on
square tapered legs.

Poor condition.

\$ 50.00

INLAID MAHOGANY SERPENTINE

FRONT SIDEBOARD

With three frieze drawers,
four cupboard doors; on square
tapered legs.

Poor condition.

70.00

INLAID MAHOGANY BOOKCASE

Open, with adjustable shelves.

20.00

FEDERAL STYLE WING ARMCHAIR

On reeded baluster legs, in
green.

Poor condition.

40.00

CLASSICAL MAHOGANY BEDSIDE

TABLE

With molded frieze drawer,
paneled cupboard door, scrolled
stiles, scrolled feet.

45.00

UPHOLSTERED COUCH

With "bolster" ends, on turned
legs.

Very poor condition.

10.00

CERTIFICATION OF RECORD

STATE OF VERMONT,

District of Manchester, ss.

PROBATE COURT

I, Geraldine Lynch, Register of the Probate Court within and for
said District and having by law the custody of the seal, records and files of said Court, do hereby certify that
I have compared the foregoing copies of Last Will and Testament and excerpt from
the appraisal in re Estate of Mary Lincoln Beckwith late of Manchester in
said District, deceased

with the original record thereof now being and remaining in this office, and that the same is a true and correct
transcript therefrom, and of the whole and every part thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto affix the seal of said Court and subscribe

(SEAL)

my name, at Manchester in said District,

this 20th day of September, 1979.

Geraldine Lynch
Register.



Lincoln Lore

September, 1977

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor. Published each month by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1675

TWO NEW LINCOLN SITES . . . MAYBE

America's continuing interest in Abraham Lincoln is a phenomenon most evident on a broadly popular level. There may well be less research in progress on Lincoln manuscripts and books than there was two or three decades ago. Real action is taking place, however, where masses of Americans look increasingly for their contacts with history, at historical sites. The National Park Service initiated a long-range program to improve the Lincoln home site in Springfield, Illinois, some years back. There is a large project under way to upgrade the interpretative material at other Lincoln sites in

Illinois as well. A new site in Kentucky was dedicated just this year, and people in Vermont, of all places, are at work to save another Lincoln-related historical site.

The newest addition is the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington, Kentucky, dedicated on June ninth of this year. Like all such events, this dedication was the result of considerable struggle over a substantial period in the past. More than seven years ago, Mrs. Louis B. Nunn, wife of the governor of Kentucky at that time, visited the historic brick house in which Mary Todd spent her girlhood years. The wives of the



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 1. The Mary Todd Lincoln house on Main Street in Lexington, Kentucky.



FIGURE 2. Much of the Todd home is restored to the period 1832 - 1849, the time of Robert Smith Todd's residence there. This parlor contains the painted portrait of Robert Smith Todd. The couches are copies of furniture used by Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln in the White House.

*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

governors of Indiana and Illinois were coming for a visit and had expressed an interest in seeing the house. Mrs. Nunn was shocked to find that the Todd home was a tumbledown warehouse for plumbing supplies.

The house had survived many close calls in the past. As early as 1921, civic and historical groups in Lexington showed interest in using the house for a museum. After a year's efforts, however, the only accomplishment was the placement of a tablet on the outside of the building describing its history. Occasional newspaper articles on the sad plight of the house sparked little interest. A proposal to use it for commercial pur-

poses in 1932 did prompt a protest from a black church across the street. Louis A. Warren, the first editor of *Lincoln Lore*, made several attempts in the 1940s to interest Lexington citizens in converting the home into an historic site, but in 1946, the house was nearly razed to make room for a gas station.

The home was a victim of forces of which we have only recently become aware. Before the era of woman's liberation, it was not easy to arouse enthusiasm for a *girlhood* home. Indeed, the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation touts the home as "the first shrine to honor an American First Lady." C. Frank Dunn, a local Lexington historian who was

FIGURE 3. The master bedroom in the Todd house is furnished with pieces made in Winchester, Kentucky, in the early part of the nineteenth century. Knowledge of the type of carpet used in the room came from the 1849 inventory of the Robert Smith Todd estate.



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

interested in saving the house in 1949, wrote Louis Warren to tell him that it would never work to save the home "to glorify womanhood." It could only succeed as an essentially Lincoln-related memorial.

Dunn pointed to other problems. He did not feel that any prominent woman in Lexington would lead a campaign to save the Todd house. For one thing, the home was a notorious house of ill fame in some of the years after it passed out of Todd family hands. For another, most of the leaders of Lexington society were Confederate descendants. Despite the fact that the state did not secede, Lincoln's policies on race drove Kentucky sentiment into the camp of the Solid South after the war was over, and there that sentiment remained as late as 1949. A further problem was the extremely poor condition of the house. At that time, it seemed "utterly impossible to restore the place."

The Todd home went through the various stages of decay that properties on the slide go through. The original family left, and the occupants became people without a permanent home. From a rooming house, it became a place where people went just for an evening. From a saloon, it became a place occupied more by objects than people, a used-furniture store. At last, it became a place occupied only by objects, a warehouse.

Mrs. Nunn organized the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation in 1969 to renovate the Executive Mansion in Frankfort. The organization restored White Hall, the home of Lincoln's minister to Russia, antislavery maverick Cassius M. Clay. The Foundation also took an interest in the Todd home, but the conversion of that home to a public historic site would not be accomplished without a final struggle.

The Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs raised \$26,500, the appraised value of the house. Governor Nunn provided \$100,000 in state money from a contingency fund. The Department of Housing and Urban Development included the block on which the Todd home was situated in a Lexington urban renewal tract. In 1971, the Commonwealth of Kentucky bought the tract, but a long legal battle ensued. The owners contested the state's ability to condemn the property on the basis of the value of that piece of property alone without considering its value in conjunction with surrounding properties. In 1973, the Kentucky Court of Appeals upheld a Fayette Circuit Court ruling that the state could condemn the property without considering the value of the adjacent property.

Actual restoration of the property could not begin until 1976. Governor Julian Carroll's administration provided \$465,000 to restore the house and purchase furnishings. The governor and his wife also made unused Executive Mansion furniture available for use in the Todd home. The feat was at last accomplished.

The house was built in the first decade of the nineteenth century. Robert Smith Todd purchased the house in 1832, when his daughter Mary was already fourteen years old. She lived in the home until she left for Springfield in 1839; her father lived there until his death in 1849. While he lived in the house, Robert Todd was clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives, was elected to the Kentucky Senate, and was president of the Lexington branch of the Bank of Kentucky. The family gained substantial income from a grocery establishment.

Of course, the original furnishings of the Todd home have not survived. When Robert Todd died in 1849, his estate was offered for sale and was scattered far and wide. The inventory of the estate made for that sale survives, however, and from that inventory it was possible to make an educated guess at the furnishings of the house. The twenty-room brick house contains a rare portrait of Robert Todd and draperies copied from a surviving swatch from the original parlor. The home is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday.

The name of Robert Todd figures prominently in the struggle which is presently going on to save Hildene, a mansion in Manchester, Vermont. It was the home of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to live to maturity. Robert first visited Manchester on a vacation to escape the heat of a Washington summer during the Civil War. He visited the area repeatedly after the war and was especially fond of the summer home his law partner, Edward Swift Isham, kept in the area. In 1902, now wealthy and successful, Robert Todd Lincoln purchased several hundred acres in Manchester. In 1904, Hildene was built and remained in the family's hands until the death of Robert's granddaughter, Mary Lincoln Beckwith, in 1975. Her will left the 412-acre estate to the Christian Science Church with the wish that it be preserved as a memorial to her grandparents. However, the will contains an escape clause allowing the church to

sell the estate if it is "impractical" to run the estate as an historical memorial.

The position of the Christian Science Church is simple. They consider themselves, according to Mr. Carl B. Rechner, Real Estate Consultant at the Christian Science Center in Boston, a "small but international church." They are not equipped to run historical memorials, and that is an enterprise which does not particularly fit their mainly religious objectives. They wish to follow the spirit of the will and will sell the property to any group which will operate the property as a memorial to the Lincolns. However, the property was appraised at \$612,000, and no group which wishes to operate the home as an historic property has that kind of money. Mr. Rechner said that the church offered to sell for \$400,000 and to "make terms" that would ease even that burden, but their offer has not been taken. They have been offered, \$200,000, which they refused. They feel that, if no group prepared to manage the property as a memorial offers to buy it for a reasonable price, that they are then free to sell to any other buyer for the next best use.

The Friends of Hildene, Inc., a group of over one hundred Manchester citizens anxious to save the mansion for historical purposes, is long on sentiment for the project and, understandably, short on funds. One major gift, says FOH president Robert Schmid, allowed them to make the \$200,000 offer. Since negotiations to close the gap between that and the church's figure have broken down, that offer has been withdrawn. The Friends of Hildene think that they have an excellent chance to save the estate through the courts. "News from the Friends of Hildene," a bulletin published by the organization, stated their case this way in April:

The FOH stand, buttressed by legal precedent and authority, is that the Church has not shown — and has made no good faith effort to establish — that to run Hildene as directed in the Will would be "impractical." Therefore,



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 4. Robert Todd Lincoln's portrait in the dining room of Hildene.

having failed to establish "impracticality," the Church is not free to sell the estate except to a buyer who will honor Miss Beckwith's memorial concept. In FOH's view "impracticality" *might* have been argued if the Beckwith Will had left no money to the Church as operating capital for the maintenance of a Hildene memorial. But the Will provides a specific fund of \$425,000. as endowment for this memorial purpose as well as "all the rest, residue, and remainder" of the estate after taxes and expenses have been paid. Thus, with . . . working capital and with full title to the land and buildings, . . . the Church must present convincing evidence — which has not been forthcoming — that it is "impractical" to maintain Hildene as a memorial.

The \$425,000 endowment was a fund set aside in Miss Beckwith's will for her servants. The servants are all deceased now, and in that contingency the money and the "rest and residue" of the estate after settlement were to go to the operation of the memorial. Mr. Schmid estimates the amount available for this purpose now at \$780,000 in cash, stocks, and bonds. A court fight is in the offing, the Church petitioning the courts for permission to sell Hildene on the open market and the Friends of Hildene "determined to prevent, by all legal means, the diversion of these resources from their intended purpose."

Hildene has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by the Vermont State Division for Historic Preservation, which described it as a "magnificent example of Georgian revival architecture." Miss Kathryn Welch, planning officer for the Boston regional office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation noted:

The estate contains a multiplicity of artifacts, memorabilia, and archival materials, which would be of historical significance. Resources such as the papers and correspondence of Robert Todd Lincoln and the Lincoln-Beckwith families as well as the collection of artifacts should be evaluated for their content and significance relative to U.S. history, the history of the Lincoln-Beckwith family, and the more local history of the estate and the town of Manchester.

The home is in good physical condition, and Mr. Schmid says that the furnishings in the home are mostly the ones Robert Todd Lincoln acquired for it. Miss Beckwith, known locally as "Peg," lived in the house as it had been set up by her grand-

father. She bought very few furnishings herself. Some of the furnishings, however, go to Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, Miss Beckwith's brother, and he is currently distributing some of the items. Friends of Hildene have contacted him, however, and he has apparently agreed to leave certain very important pieces, like the grandfather clock, in the home.

When I asked Mr. Rechner for a description of the Church's position, he gave me in essence the position I described as the Church's above. He did not mention the endowment fund on which the Friends of Hildene place so much emphasis. Wanting to clarify the matter, I called the Church's associate counsel, Mr. Philip Hunt. He expressed some reluctance to discuss a matter of litigation at first, but he did consent to discuss the will a bit. The "so-called endowment" fund is "in there," he said, as a trust which was never set up because all the potential beneficiaries were deceased before they could benefit from it. Mr. Hunt's position is that, "endowment" fund or no, the whole question hinges on "the degree of discretion" Miss Beckwith desired the directors of the Church to have. The courts, he said, will look at the critical words in the will, which state that in the event the directors should determine the historical memorial purpose impractical, they could use the property to further the ends of religion as taught by Mary Baker Eddy. The will states that it is Miss Beckwith's "desire," but she does "not direct" that it be used for the historical purpose. She could have directed them to do so and left the property to someone else in the event that they did not wish to do so. The courts will have to interpret whether it is entirely up to the directors of the Church to decide the question of practicality. In the meantime, Lincoln enthusiasts will have to wait and watch anxiously or hope that some benefactor can close the gap between the Church's price for the property and the funds raised by the Friends of Hildene.

Editor's Note: Readers of the credits for photographs in recent issues will have noted the appearance of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. This is the new name for the Lincoln National Life Foundation. A future issue will deal with the renaming of the Foundation in honor of its first director and with the move of the facility to brand new quarters.

M. E. N., Jr.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 5. Main entrance of Hildene.



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